



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and James Spero Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations, Buffalo, New York announced today that Willie J. DAVIS, age 22, of Syracuse, New York, was arrested on February 6, 2012 and charged by complaint with Sexual Enticement of a Minor in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b).

A conviction for Sexual Enticement of a Minor carries a mandatory minimum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment, a fine up to \$250,000 and registration as a sex offender. On February 6, 2012, DAVIS had an initial appearance in front of the Honorable Andrew T. Baxter, United States Magistrate Judge, in Syracuse, New York. Judge Baxter ordered that DAVIS remain incarcerated pending trial. Currently, a preliminary hearing is scheduled for February 17, 2012.

The complaint and charge were the result of an investigation by agents of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Massena, New York. The complaint alleges that in January 2012, DAVIS was in contact with a thirteen year-old female residing in the Northern District of New York. During the investigation, HSI agents assumed the identity of the thirteen year-old girl and began communicating with DAVIS through Facebook and text messaging. While communicating with DAVIS in an undercover capacity, DAVIS arranged to meet with the thirteen year-old girl in Syracuse, New York for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. On February 6, 2012, when

DAVIS arrived at the agreed upon meeting location, the Carousel Mall in Syracuse, New York, HSI agents arrested DAVIS.

The complaint also alleges that DAVIS is a registered sex offender, with a prior conviction for Rape in the Second Degree, in violation of New York State penal code 130.30.

The charges contained in the complaint are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Any questions may be directed to Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan in Syracuse, New York at (315) 448-0672 or Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner in Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.